

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A base support for supporting an elongated member in a substantially upright position comprising a base member having a greater length than width and bottom and top walls and opposite side walls, one of the side walls being substantially straight and in substantially the same plane throughout its length and height, and the other of the side walls having an intermediate length that is spaced further from the plane of the one side wall than end lengths of the other side wall to provide the base member with a wider intermediate width than end widths, and a mounting hole extending through the top wall in the wider intermediate width for closely receiving an end portion of an elongated member to maintain the elongated member in a substantially upright position when the base member is placed on a generally horizontal support surface, the mounting hole having a width that extends widthwise inwardly and outwardly of the end lengths of just the other side wall ~~greater than the end widths~~ and is less than the intermediate width of the base member.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The base support of claim 1 wherein the end lengths of the other side wall are in substantial alignment with each other in parallel spaced relation from the one side wall and the mounting hole has a center that extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to an intermediate length of the top wall and is

substantially in the same plane as the end lengths of the other side wall which is substantially perpendicular to the intermediate length of the top wall.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The base support of claim 2 wherein the intermediate length of the other side wall has outwardly angled end portions adjacent opposite sides of the mounting hole extending toward each other to resist flexing of a wall of the mounting hole and an intermediate portion extending between the end portions in parallel spaced relation to the one side wall.

Claim 4 (original): The base support of claim 1 wherein the mounting hole extends completely through the base member.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The base support of claim 1 wherein the mounting hole is substantially square shaped with four sides and has a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinally extending ribs ~~around the entire periphery~~ on all four sides of the mounting hole that are transversely rounded for establishing line contact with ~~the a~~ similarly square shaped end portion of the elongated member when inserted into the mounting hole.

Claim 6 (original): The base support of claim 5 wherein upper end portions of the ribs are axially rounded to facilitate insertion of the end portion of the elongated member into the mounting hole through the top wall.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The base support of claim 1 wherein the base member is substantially hollow and the top wall of the base member has angled surfaces that slope outwardly toward the bottom wall adjacent opposite ends of the base member, and there is has a fill hole in one of the angled surfaces of the top wall adjacent one end for ease of filling the base member with a flowable ballast material when stood up on the other end.

Claim 9 and 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The base support of claim 8 wherein the base member has thinned out non-hollow solid end portions, further comprising annular anti-skid pads having a diameter greater than the width of the end portions attached to the bottom wall at the end portions.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The base support of claim 11 wherein the bottom wall has arcuate recesses at the end portions in which arcuate portions of the anti-skid pads are received to aid in locating the anti-skid pads on the bottom wall.

Claim 13 (original): The base support of claim 11 wherein the anti-skid pads are stapled to the bottom wall at the end portions.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The base support of claim 11 wherein the top wall of the end portions has raised ribs to provide increased strength at the end portions.

Claim 15 (original): The base support of claim 1 wherein one of the top and bottom walls has a plurality of axially spaced apart stacking ribs and the other of the top and bottom walls has corresponding recesses for receipt of the stacking ribs of other such base supports to maintain a plurality of the base supports in stacked relation when stacked one on top of another.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The base support of claim 1 further comprising a carrying handle on an exterior side of the base member.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The base support of claim 16 wherein the carrying handle is attached to the exterior of the other side wall of the base member.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The base support of claim 17 wherein the carrying handle extends axially from the exterior of one end portion of the intermediate length of the other side wall along an exterior portion of one of the end lengths of the other side wall.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The base support of claim 18 wherein the carrying handle is integral with the exterior of the other side wall of the base member.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The base support of claim 18 wherein the carrying handle protrudes laterally outwardly beyond one of the end lengths of the other side wall but not laterally outwardly beyond the intermediate length of the other side wall.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (original): The base support of claim 1 wherein the base member is made of molded plastic.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A base support comprising a base member for supporting an elongated member in a substantially upright position, the base member having one side wall that is substantially straight throughout its length and height and an other side wall that is substantially straight and parallel to the one side wall except intermediate the length of the other side wall which extends laterally outwardly to provide the base member with ~~a wider~~ an intermediate width ~~than~~ at least as twice as wide as the end widths, and a substantially square mounting hole extending through the intermediate width of the base member for receipt of ~~an~~ a similarly shaped end portion of the elongated member, the mounting hole having a width greater than the end widths and less than the intermediate width of the base member.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The base support of claim 23 wherein the mounting hole has a center that is substantially in the same plane as end lengths of the other side

wall that is substantially perpendicular to an intermediate length of the top wall ~~parallel to the plane of the one side wall.~~

Claim 25 (currently amended): The base support of claim 23 wherein the other side wall has an intermediate length with outwardly angled end portions adjacent opposite sides of the mounting hole that extend toward each other to resist flexing of a wall of the mounting hole and an intermediate portion extending between the end portions in parallel spaced relation to the one side wall.

Claim 26 (cancelled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): The base support of claim ~~26~~ 23 wherein the mounting hole has a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinally extending ribs ~~around the entire periphery~~ on all four sides of the mounting hole that are transversely rounded for establishing line contact with a ~~non-circular~~ similarly square shaped end portion of the elongated member when inserted into the mounting hole.

Claim 28 (original): The base support of claim 27 wherein the ribs have axially rounded end portions to facilitate insertion of the end portion of the elongated member into the mounting hole.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A base support for supporting an elongated member in a generally upright position comprising a base member having spaced apart top and

bottom walls and opposite side walls, and a substantially square mounting hole extending through the base member between the top and bottom walls, the mounting hole having a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinally extending ribs on all four sides ~~around the entire periphery~~ of the mounting hole that are transversely rounded for establishing line contact with ~~an~~ a similarly square shaped end portion of an elongated member when inserted into the mounting hole.

Claim 30 (original): The base support of claim 29 wherein the ribs have axially rounded end portions adjacent the top wall to facilitate insertion of the end portion of an elongated member into the mounting hole.

Claim 31 (cancelled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): The base support of claim 29 wherein the base member is substantially hollow and ~~has~~ the top wall of the base member has angled surfaces that slope outwardly toward the bottom wall adjacent opposite ends of the base member, and there is a fill hole in one of the angled surfaces of the top wall adjacent one end for ease of filling of the base member with a flowable ballast material when stood up on the other end.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The base support of claim 29 wherein the base member has solid opposite end portions that are substantially thinner than an intermediate length of the base member, further comprising annular anti-skid pads having a diameter

greater than the width of the end portions attached to the bottom wall at the end portions.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The base support of claim 33 wherein the bottom wall of the base member has arcuate recesses at the end portions in which arcuate portions of the anti-skid pads are received to aid in locating the anti-skid pads on the bottom wall at the end portions.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A base support for supporting an elongated member in a substantially upright position comprising a base member having a greater length than width and bottom and top walls and opposite side walls, one of the side walls being substantially straight throughout its length and height, and the other of the side walls having an intermediate length that is spaced further from the plane of the one side wall than end lengths of the other side wall to provide the base member with a wider intermediate width than end widths, and a mounting hole extending through the top wall in the wider intermediate width for closely receiving an end portion of an elongated member to maintain the elongated member in a substantially upright position when the base member is placed on a generally horizontal support surface, the top wall of the base member having angled surfaces that slope outwardly toward the bottom wall adjacent opposite ends of the base member, and the base member being substantially hollow and having a fill hole in one of the angled surfaces of the top wall adjacent one end for ease of filling the base member with a flowable ballast material when stood up on the other end.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A base support for supporting an elongated member in a substantially upright position comprising a base member having a greater length than width and bottom and top walls and opposite side walls, one of the side walls being substantially straight throughout its length and height, and the other of the side walls having an intermediate length that is spaced further from the plane of the one side wall than end lengths of the other side wall to provide the base member with a wider intermediate width than end widths, and a mounting hole extending through the top wall in the wider intermediate width for closely receiving an end portion of an elongated member to maintain the elongated member in a substantially upright position when the base member is placed on a generally horizontal support surface, and a carrying handle attached to the other side wall of the base member, the carrying handle extending axially from the exterior of one end portion of the intermediate length of the other side wall along a an exterior portion of one of the end lengths of the other side wall, the base member being substantially hollow and having a fill hole adjacent the end of the base member toward which the carrying handle extends to allow the base member to be filled with a flowable ballast material through the fill hole when the base member is stood on the other end.